

THE NEWARK MUSEUM 


 **Fleet** PRESENTS

The 28th Annual Newark Black Film Festival

Admission
is
FREE

Your Invitation to Experience the Power of Film

June 26—August 8, 2002

THE NEWARK MUSEUM 
49 Washington Street
P.O. Box 540
Newark, NJ 07101-0540

 **Fleet** PRESENTS

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June 26—August 8, 2002

www.newarkmuseum.org/nbff



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THE NEWARK The 28th Annual

Your Invitation to Experience

Once upon a time, in a society that now seems like a foreign territory, simplistic and awkward cinematic images of black people helped create the most extraordinary myth: that blacks were somehow transparent and without depth. In those distant days, movies kept alive the power of fantasy tied up with racism. In doing so, they made the quest for cultural democracy all the more difficult to achieve.

For the past twenty-eight years, since 1974, the Newark Black Film Festival has presented a vast array of films that gave what might be called an alternative, more believable, view of black life in all of its dimensions. Here in Newark, which has settled Americans of African ancestry since the 17th century, the Festival's larger mission has been clear and unencumbered: the Festival seeks to set the cinematic record straight on matters involving the life and times of black people here in the United States and the African Diaspora.

This year's Festival will present the maturity of black film as an important genre of cinematic life. The diversity of this year's films—found in cinematic techniques, contested narratives and cultural assumptions—is nothing short of extraordinary. From Euzhan Palcy's poignant *A Dry White Season*, to Pam Grier's *Friday Foster*, to the critically acclaimed French opus *La Haine (Hate)*, to the humorous romp *Hav Plenty* and the powerful documentary *Ralph Bunche: An American Odyssey*, the 28th Annual Newark Black Film Festival will delight, inspire, and stir the imagination. The Festival will also feature its famous bi-annual Paul Robeson Awards for distinguished contributions to black film.

The members of the Festival Selection Committee and the staff of The Newark Museum, along with our sponsor, Fleet, are especially proud of its unique contribution to the life and times of our now revitalized community. We hope you will enjoy each film screening.

Clement Alexander Price

Professor of History,

Director of the Institute of Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience
Rutgers University, Newark Campus

Newark Black Film Festival Selection Committee Member

IN MEMORIAM

Sadly, this year's Festival will take place without the cinematic expertise and deep friendship of Thomas C. Guy, Jr., who passed away on Thursday, May 23, 2002. He was a senior member of the Festival Selection Committee, a student of Africana Studies and an independent documentary filmmaker of considerable talent and authority. Mr. Guy's contributions to contemporary American cinema helped give an earnest voice and believable imagery to African American culture, institutional life, and history.

The 28th Newark Black Film Festival is presented in memory of

LONG NARRATIVE — **COMPENSATION**

An exploration of black culture in Chicago at the turn of the century and in the present day. (English/Color/92 minutes/1999)

Producers: Zeinabu irene Davis & Marc Chery

Director: Zeinabu irene Davis

SHORT NARRATIVE — **THE MONSTER**

This film is the result of a challenge presented by director Adam Davidson to five teenager boys incarcerated on Rikers Island, who were asked to write about coming of age in the era of AIDS.

(English/Color/11 minutes/2001)

Producer: Avram Ludwig

Director: Adam Davidson

DOCUMENTARY — **KEEP ON WALKING**

A celebration of faith and race through gospel music, featuring Joshua Nelson, a young African American/Jewish composer and singer who lives in Newark. (English/Color/53 minutes/2001)

Producer/Directors: Tana Ross, Jesper Sorensen,

Freke Vuijst, & Vibeke Winding

EXPERIMENTAL — **IN CHECK**

A human game of chess armed with the strength of truth and strategic deception in which human game tokens advance and retreat in the infinite game of black and white. (English/Black & White/6 minutes/2002)

Producer: Lucien Tyssendier

Director: Bill Stone

August 8 6 p.m. | Paul Robeson Awards Night

The Newark Museum

Guest Host: Cleatrice N. Johnson

A special added Thursday screening of film projects that received Honorable Mentions in the 2002 Paul Robeson Awards. The following features will be screened:

LONG NARRATIVE — **RAVE'N**

A film about a rock/funk singer who plays his last gig and finds himself on an emotional journey. (English/Color/75 minutes/2001)

Producer: Frank Palmer and Kenneth Waddell

Director: Kenneth Waddell

SHORT NARRATIVE — **WHAT WOULDN'T JESUS DO?**

Intrigued by the recent renaissance in Christianity, this film explores the present day thoughts and feelings of a Jesus Christ who sets the record straight. (English/Color/15 minutes/2001)

Producer/Director: Rod J. Emelle

SHORT NARRATIVE — **FIREBUG**

The story of a young black boy who secretly starts fires in rural Georgia circa 1934, while his father, a local sharecropper, is harassed by the white landowners to catch the firebug who happens to be his son.

(English/Color/15 minutes/2001)

Producer/Director: Michelle Harris

DOCUMENTARY — **OUTSIDE LOOKING IN**

Features three American families brought together by transracial adoption that examines the bonds and strains that families experience when white couples decide to adopt black children.

(English/Color/56 minutes/2001)

Producer: Dallas Brennan and Katy Chevigny

ADULT CINEMA SCHEDULE

June 26 7 p.m. | Sisters Behind the Camera

The Newark Museum Speaker: Euzhan Palcy, *Director*
Host: Gloria Hopkins Buck

A DRY WHITE SEASON Directed by Euzhan Palcy

A *Dry White Season* is a compelling story of a prominent white schoolteacher living in South Africa and accepting the apartheid system. He finds his life is shattered when his black gardener is killed after trying to investigate his son's death.

(English/Color/Rated R/102 minutes/1989)

July 10 7 p.m. | Fleet Night — Pam Grier, An American Film Diva



Photo: Eric Corneer

Newark Symphony Hall Speaker: Pam Grier, *Actor*
Host: Richard Wesley

FRIDAY FOSTER

Produced and directed by Arthur Marks

Friday Foster is a 1970s Pam Grier classic film about a beautiful and witty magazine photojournalist who discovers that a group of white assassins are plotting to kill several important black political figures.

(English/Color/Rated R/90 minutes/1975)

July 17 7 p.m. | The Color of Trouble

The Newark Museum Speaker: Professor Mark Reid, *Author*
Host: Wilma Grey

LA HAINE (HATE) Directed by Mathieu Kassovitz

La Haine (Hate) is an acclaimed, no holds-barred drama that follows the lives of four troubled youths in Paris during a 24-hour period of rioting and looting.

(French with English Subtitles/Color/Rated R/96 minutes/1996)

July 24 7 p.m. | Humor and Social Class in Black American Society

Newark Community Movie Theatre
(Formerly Loews Cineplex Newark Theatre)

Speaker: Robinne Lee, *Actor*

Co-Hosts: Lisa Payne and Jane Rappaport

HAV PLNTY

Produced and directed by Christopher Scott Cherot

Hav Plenty is an engaging comedy about a struggling New York writer, played by writer-director Christopher Scott Cherot, who discovers during a Thanksgiving holiday weekend that he has romantic feelings for one of his beautiful and engaged female friends.

(English/Color/Rated R for Language & Sexual Content/90 minutes/1998)

July 31 7 p.m. | Ralph Bunche — Citizen of the World

New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)

Speaker: William Greaves, *Director*

Co-Hosts: Theodore Johnson and Dr. Clement A. Price

RALPH BUNCHE: AN AMERICAN ODYSSEY

Produced and directed by William Greaves

Ralph Bunche: An American Odyssey is the moving story of Ralph Johnson Bunche, the legendary African American scholar and statesman who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950 for his mediation of a series of armistice agreements between Israel and its neighbors Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

(English/Color/Documentary/117 minutes/2001)



©Photo: Leni Riefenstahl
Courtesy: Barbara Weiler

**August 7 6 p.m. | 2002 Paul Robeson Awards Night
Special Guests —
Award Winning Filmmakers**

The Newark Museum

Co-Hosts: Gloria Hopkins Buck and Dr. Clement A. Price

In honor of activist and scholar, Paul Robeson, the best and brightest aspiring filmmakers will be recognized for their outstanding films. The 2002 winners of the Paul Robeson Awards are as follows:

DOCUMENTARY — STRANGE FRUIT

This documentary is about the history and legacy of a song unique in the annals of American music that tells of convergences between art and politics, human suffering and human expression.

(English/Color/57 minutes/2001) Producer/Director: Joel Kat

YOUTH CINEMA SCHEDULE

Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

Newark Public Library

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

The Newark Museum

ADMISSION IS FREE FOR ALL AGES!

Wednesday, June 26



RUBY BRIDGES

The inspiring true story of one little girl whose strength and dignity during the racially charged 1960s helped change history! Six-year-old Ruby was the first African American to integrate her local New Orleans elementary school. Guided by her parents' love, Ruby's heroic struggle for a better education becomes a lesson for us all. (English/Color/90 minutes)

Monday, July 8 and Wednesday, July 10

THE MIRROR LID

Fifteen-year-old Jantre struggles to accept her appearance. Though she spends an hour each day trying to tame her unruly hair, she never feels attractive and envies the white girls' straight hair. (English/Color/27 minutes)

RAPUNZEL

A New Orleans-style setting and familiar celebrity voices brighten up this treasured tale of the long-haired beauty. This lively retelling of a favorite classic tale features the voices of Meshack Taylor, Robert Guillaume and Tisha Campbell as Rapunzel. (English/Color/30 minutes)

Monday, July 15 and Wednesday, July 17

THE CHILDREN OF GAMBIA

This charming five-part series for children aged 5-12 was filmed in Gambia, in the village of Koloi. Njeme, age 6, and Alieu, age 7, each focus on a different event which feature such African traditions as drumming, dancing and naming ceremonies. (English/Color/60 minutes)

Monday, July 22 and Wednesday, July 24

THE GREEDY CHILD

Jomay is a 13-year-old who never helps and never shares. To avoid being scolded, he runs away, but is captured by a giant. (English/Color/26 minutes)

JACK & THE BEANSTALK

Jack is black and the giant can rap in this retelling of the misadventures with an ogre, featuring the voices of Harry Belafonte, Pauletta Washington, Wayne Collins, Tone Loc and Jackee Harry. (English/Color/20 minutes)

Monday, July 29 and Wednesday, July 31

THE COLOR OF FRIENDSHIP

Inspired by actual events, this movie tells the story of two girls from different worlds who learn the ultimate lesson about tolerance and friendship. (English/Color/83 minutes)

Monday, August 5 and Wednesday, August 7

THE DROP OF MILK

In this fable about an old man and a young boy, the boy has allowed the final drop of cow's milk to fall to the ground and the old man sends him in search of the magical drop of milk. In the course of the story, we see the contrast between the lives of an African child from a land of drought and a European child from a land of rich pastures, as well as the transcending similarities. (English/Color/26 minutes)

WHY MOSQUITOES BUZZ IN PEOPLE'S EARS

A tall tale sets off a comic chain of mishaps from Mosquito to Iguana to Python to Rabbit to Owl, but all is wisely resolved by King Lion at the jungle council meeting. (English/Color/15 minutes)

VILLAGE OF ROUND AND SQUARE HOUSES

A young girl from the West African village of Tos movingly tells how the men came to live in square houses and the women in round ones. (English/Color/15 minutes)

MUSEUM



Fleet PRESENTS

Newark Black Film Festival

the Power of Film

June 26–August 8, 2002

Festival Support:

The 28th Annual Newark Black Film Festival has received special funding from its official sponsor, Fleet, as well as the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State.

Co-presenters: Newark Symphony Hall, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), the Newark Public Library, Rutgers University (Newark Campus) and the Newark Community Movie Theatre (Formerly Loews Cineplex Newark Theatre). The Festival is organized and hosted by The Newark Museum located at 49 Washington Street in Newark's Downtown/Arts District.

All screenings are FREE. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Once the theatre is filled to capacity, additional seating cannot be provided. Group seating is limited to two groups of 25 for each screening and will be held until 6:45 p.m. For more information, call 1-800-7-MUSEUM or visit our Web site at www.newarkmuseum.org/nbfff.

Selection Committee Members

Gloria Hopkins Buck
Public Relations Consultant

Patricia Faison
Marketing Assistant
The Newark Museum

Wilma Grey
Assistant Director of Community
Library Services, Newark Public Library

Thomas C. Guy, Jr.
Independent Filmmaker

Cynthia Hollod
Deputy Director for Marketing
The Newark Museum

Theodore Johnson
Executive Director of Compliance
Training, Community Relations
New Jersey Institute of Technology

Lisa Payne
Filmmaker

Dr. Clement Alexander Price
Professor of History, Director of the
Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the
Modern Experience, Rutgers University
(Newark Campus)

Mary Sue Sweeney Price
Director
The Newark Museum

Jane Rappaport
Former Festival Coordinator

Richard Wesley
Scriptwriter and Playwright

Members Emeritus

John Gregory Clemons
Clarence C. Ali

Oliver Franklin
Flora B. Baldwin

Gustav Henningburg

Paul Robeson Selection Committee Members

Gloria Hopkins Buck
Public Relations Consultant

Jane Rappaport
Former Festival Coordinator

Darien Sills-Evans
Filmmaker, Mobius Pictures

Pamm Malveaux
Filmmaker, PM2, LLC.

Andre Butts
Program Director, New Jersey Public
Television and Radio

Alvin Larkins
Program Associate, Thomas Edison
Television and Radio Media Arts

Lori Barcliff Baptista
Administrator, Institute on Ethnicity,
Culture and the Modern Experience,
Rutgers University (Newark Campus)

Thomas C. Guy, Jr.
Independent Filmmaker

Henrietta Parker
Producer, New Jersey Public
Television and Radio

Film Sources

A Dry White Season, Friday Foster and Hav Plenty
Swank Motion Pictures, Inc.
2700 Walnut Place, St. Louis, MO 63103-2531
1-800-876-5577

La Haine (Hate)
Movies Unlimited
3015 Darnell Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19154
1-800-4-MOVIES

Ralph Bunche: An American Odyssey
Louise Archambault
P.O. Box 2044 New York, NY 10101-2044
212-265-6150

Screening Locations

The Newark Museum Billy Johnson Auditorium
49 Washington Street, Newark, NJ
1-800-7-MUSEUM

The Newark Community Theatre (Formerly Loews Cineplex
Newark Theatre), 360-394 Springfield Avenue, Newark, NJ
973-642-5555

Newark Symphony Hall 1020 Broad Street, Newark, NJ
973-643-4550

New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)
University Hall, 99 Summit Street, Newark, NJ
973-596-3000

Newark Public Library 5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ
973-733-7730

If you are interested in learning more about the programs at
The Newark Museum, please call 1-800-7-MUSEUM or visit our
Web site at www.newarkmuseum.org/nbfff. TTY 973-596-6355



The Newark Museum is a not-for-profit museum of art, science and education, that receives operating support from the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, and corporate, foundation and individual donors. Funds for acquisitions activities other than operations are provided by members and other contributors.



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Rutgers University (Newark Campus) and the Newark Center for the Arts

For more information call 1-800-7-MUSEUM or visit www.newarkblackfilmfestival.org

The 28th Annual Newark Black Film Festival is in memory of Thomas C. Carter

THE NEWARK MUSEUM



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The Newark Museum

Speaker: Euzhan Palcy, Director

Host: Gloria Hopkins Buck

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Produced and directed by William Greaves

PRESENTS

Annual

Newark Film Festival Power of Film 2002

Newark Public Library,
Community Movie Theatre

www.newarkmuseum.org/nbft

Guy, Jr., Filmmaker

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Producer/Director: Rod J. Emelle

SHORT NARRATIVE — FIREBUG

Producer/Director: Michelle Harris

DOCUMENTARY — OUTSIDE LOOKING

Producer: Dallas Brennan and Katy Chevigny

Director: Phil Bertelsen

DOCUMENTARY — STRANGE FRUIT

Producer/Director: Joel Katz